







Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg



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Dear Constituent,

I feel honored and privileged to represent you in the 95th Assembly District and to share with you some highlights of my work to date. My first legislative session was very productive; read more about it and see pictures from my first six months in office in this newsletter. I have also been sharing frequent updates online. I encourage you to sign up for my e-news at <https://bit.ly/AD95E-News> and to follow me on social media.

Senior Forum

Cortlandt Town Hall

Wednesday, July 26, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Join me at Cortlandt Town Hall on Wednesday, July 26 from 9:30 - 11:30 for Sustaining Our Seniors, my annual Senior Forum with partners including New York-Presbyterian, Sustainable Westchester, and the Offices of the Attorney General and State Comptroller. Attendees will enjoy breakfast, entertainment, information, and an electric vehicle demonstration!

■ Highlights from the 2023 Legislative Session

In total, I was prime sponsor, co- or multi-sponsor of 71 bills that passed both houses of the Legislature this session. Eight of my prime-sponsored bills passed both houses – more than any other first-year member of the Assembly!

I often say that my mission as a legislator is to build healthy communities in every sense of the word – environmentally, economically, physically, and mentally, all through the lens of equity. The legislation I have worked on this session is very much in line with this mission. My prime-sponsored bills ranged from big bills like the “Save the Hudson” effort, to narrowly-tailored legislation intended to make things easier, safer, and better overall for local governments and our residents. I also co-sponsored some major, high-impact bills that passed this session. These bills will make New York greener, fairer, safer, and more prosperous for all, and I am proud to have played a role in getting them passed.

In the budget we passed in May, we also fully funded Foundation Aid for schools for the first time, a huge victory in a decades-long fight for educational equity. I have been fighting for fully funded Foundation Aid since I was an Ossining school board member. I am so immensely proud to be able to bring this money back to my entire district now as a Member of the Assembly.

Looking ahead, I continue to work with colleagues in neighboring districts to address housing issues, in consultation with municipal leaders. We must find ways to increase our housing stock and make housing more affordable. This is both a moral and economic imperative for New York; without addressing this issue, we will not be able to retain many of our essential workers. This is also a public safety issue; high rates of housing instability and evictions are known to cause spikes in crime. Working together, with many of this year’s lessons in mind, I believe we can find ways to protect homeowners and renters and enable people of all ages and walks of life to make a home here.



■ Prime-Sponsored Legislation Passed

Controlling our waters and marine economy

- **A.7208:** Relates to decommissioning nuclear power plant discharges into the Hudson River
- **A.7442:** Extends the authority of the Department of Environmental Conservation to manage and protect whelk and conch

Addressing municipal priorities

- **A.5274:** Expands the residential parking system in the village of Cold Spring
- **A.6101:** Creates a residency exemption for the Buchanan Engine Company No. 1
- **A.6570:** Expands the residential parking system in the village of Croton-on-Hudson
- **A.7478-A:** Relates to residency requirements for the village clerk/treasurer and deputy clerk for the village of Cold Spring

Supporting libraries

- **A.5266:** Reduces the number of petitioners necessary to call for a vote on the budget of a registered public or free association library

Expanding wedding day options for all couples

- **A.2901:** Designates lay individuals as one-day marriage officiants in order to solemnize marriages

■ Major Bills Passed

- The Equality Amendment
- All-Electric Buildings Act
- Build Public Renewables Act
- Lead Pipe Right to Know Act
- Cap and Invest
- Increases to the Minimum Wage
- Child Tax Credit Expansion
- New Shield Law for Women’s Healthcare Providers
- Clean Slate Act
- New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies

■ Fixing Our Roads

We are continuing to make progress when it comes to fixing the roads in the district. The study of the Route 9A corridor running through Ossining and Briarcliff is under way. This study will define and analyze existing conditions and develop feasible solutions for the roadway's problems. The final deliverable will be a set of recommendations that can be advanced to engineering and construction when future funding is secured. That report is expected in February of 2024. My office is participating in the Transportation Partnering Committee, which is composed of local municipal staff, elected officials, and other stakeholders. There will be multiple opportunities for public engagement, and I will share the times, dates, and locations of those meetings via email and on social media when the details are confirmed.

In other news, for those who are unaware, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) has included a proposal to repave part of 9A on their most recent list of capital projects. I will update the

community when we know more about that project, including its timing and final boundaries. Please know that though 9A is the road my office hears about most often, I am continuing to advocate for all of our roads to get the attention they need.

This year's state budget included a big increase in funding for local road repairs. I am pleased to announce that my Assembly District has received approximately \$2.3 million in funding from the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program, also known as CHIPS. The percentage increase for each municipality was between 10 and 14%. Some of our municipalities will also benefit from additional funding through State Route NY, a program through which local governments that have taken responsibility for portions of US- and State-signed touring roads within their boundaries are reimbursed for the costs of maintenance.

Overall, I am very happy to see infrastructure funding coming to the district, and look forward to more projects coming down the pike.



Celebrating the full funding of Foundation Aid with State Senator Pete Harckham and representatives from the Ossining and Peekskill School Districts.



Presenting Certificates of Merit to two of our Yorktown Eagle Scouts.



In Croton promoting the "Save the Hudson" effort with colleagues and advocates.



At the re-opening of Breakneck Ridge with Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery.



With members of the Ossining NAACP at Bethany Arts Center.

■ Indian Point

One of my main areas of focus has been the decommissioning of Indian Point. More constituents have written to me about Indian Point than any other issue. Nearly everyone who has written to me about this issue is extremely concerned that Holtec International, the company that owns Indian Point and is responsible for decommissioning, plans to discharge more than one million gallons of treated nuclear wastewater into the Hudson River this year. I take your concerns very seriously.

New York State needs to retain more control over what goes into our waters and when. I am happy to report that the Assembly passed my bill, A.7208, which will ban this type of discharge in connection with a decommissioning nuclear power plant. State Senator Pete Harckham and I are urging the Governor to sign this bill into law, and also working with state agencies to ensure that our communities' needs are respected throughout the decommissioning process.

■ Constituent Survey



Your opinions matter to me. Below is a question about what issues matter most to you, along with a list of issues that the Legislature may look to address in the upcoming legislative session. Please indicate your views on each topic on the enclosed survey. You may also submit this survey online at <https://bit.ly/AD95Issues2023>.

1. Which of the following issues matter to you?

(Select all that apply.)

- Climate change/Environmental sustainability
- Education
- Gun violence
- Housing costs
- Infrastructure
- Jobs
- Public safety
- Social justice/equality
- Taxes
- Universal health care
- Utility costs
- Other: _____

2. Is New York doing enough to make housing more affordable?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

3. Which of the following housing policies do you support?

(Select all that apply.)

- Zoning changes to increase the supply of new housing
- Incentivizing new construction of all housing types
- Incentivizing new construction of affordable housing units (housing reserved for people with low to moderate incomes)
- Building new housing units near train stations
- Allowing all homeowners to have accessory dwelling units

4. Good Cause Eviction legislation would prevent a landlord from evicting a tenant without a “good cause.” Good causes would include reasons like nonpayment of rent, nuisance, property damage, illegal activities, or illegally preventing the landlord from accessing the property. This law also lets tenants contest a rent increase above 3% or 1.5X the rate of inflation (whichever is higher) in court, which a landlord could justify by demonstrating increased costs or major building improvements. Should New York pass this law?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

5. A proposed Housing Access Voucher Program would establish a statewide rental subsidy program for low-income New Yorkers who are homeless, facing eviction, or at risk of losing their housing because of domestic violence or hazardous living conditions. Housing people costs less than homeless shelters and makes it easier for low-income people to maintain employment and stabilize their lives. Should New York fund the Housing Access Voucher Program in the next state budget?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

6. Is New York doing enough to combat climate change?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

7. Which of these environmental issues matters most to you?

(Select all that apply.)

- Clean air
- Clean water
- Electrification of buildings and vehicles
- Reducing pesticide use
- Sustainable clean energy sources
- Waste reduction/elimination
- Other: _____

8. Though crime is down in Westchester and Putnam counties, public safety has emerged as an important issue for many residents. Which of these initiatives do you think the Legislature should focus on? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Reducing the availability of guns
- Increasing access to mental health care
- Evidence-based strategies for preventing crime
- Criminal justice reform
- Bail reform
- Other: _____

9. Is New York doing enough to ensure equal access to the polls?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

10. Do you support any of the following voting reforms?

(Select all that apply.)

- Guaranteeing that voters can verify the selections on their ballots
- Same-day voter registration
- Permanent no excuse mail-in voting

11. Do you have any other comments about any of the issues above or ideas for legislation?



Please fill out survey, fold, stamp, and return to the address below.



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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Meeting with CP Unlimited during their Advocacy Day in Albany.



With Cortlandt Town Councilman Jim Creighton and Helen Markus, President of the Cortlandt Senior Club.

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Asking questions during a budget hearing.



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